Reach Indexing

Linking water program data to the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)

What is it?

Reach Indexing is a common methodology designed to promote compatibility between data sets and provide the framework to aggregate surface water data for regional and national analysis. By assisting users in linking their water program data to the NHD, these tools greatly enhance EPA's ability to evaluate the success of programs and target protection strategies.

The National Hydrography Dataset Reach Indexing Tool (NHD-RIT) and the Web-based Reach Indexing Tool (WebRIT) link water program data to the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).

This linking (or Reach Indexing) is accomplished by associating unique identifiers from water program databases with their geographic extent on the NHD.
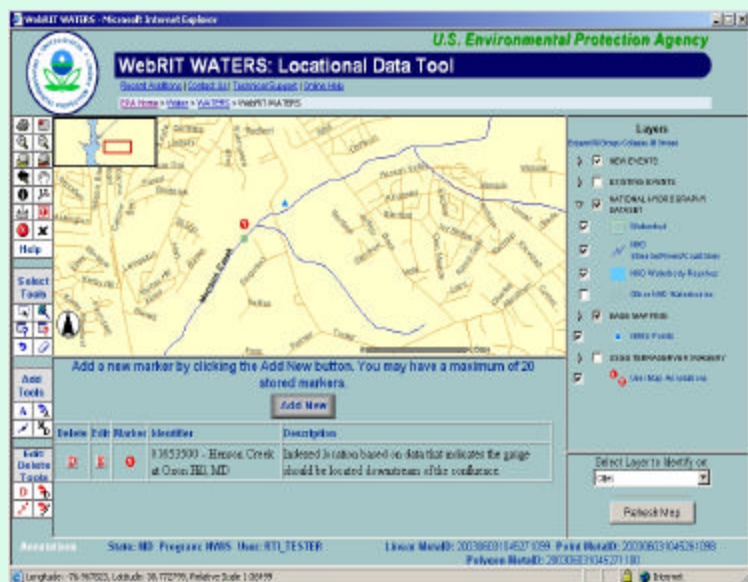
What does it do?

The PC-based NHD-RIT allows users to create a reference to user-selected portions of the NHD that can be displayed as themes in ArcView. This methodology protects the integrity of the nationally consistent NHD, and provides the user more flexibility for delineating entities than is available through other methods. The references can represent an entire reach in the NHD, or only a portion of a reach. For each association, the NHD-RIT is used to produce FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee) compliant metadata.

The WebRIT provides much of the PC-RIT edit functionality via the Internet. The WebRIT also provides latitude/longitude collection and update capabilities.

Major changes in WebRIT version 2.0 include:
- Tools and Data customized for program specific needs
- A web-based user identity management system
- Addition of linear and polygon layers
- Use of XML to return locational metadata
- Enhanced zoom and selection tools
- Enhanced creation and edit tools
- Interface enhancements to maximize mapping window

www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/georef/
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For More Information, contact:
Michael Plastino
Phone: (202) 564-0468
Email: plastino.michael@epa.gov
Or
waters_support @epa.gov